

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 30<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2007**

**PRESENT**

Mr. Mackin presided over Mesdames Harrison, Clark, Holmes and Reddick. Messrs. Dear, Gray, Fisher, Coward, Steeples Leith and Smith.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Mr. Wren and PC Busby.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> February were confirmed and signed.

**4. MATTERS ARISING**

None.

**5. POLICE REPORT**

This could not be given due to the absence of PC Busby.

**6. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reminded all Shefford Town Councillors that they are automatically members of the Burial Ground committee along with all Campton Parish Councillors. The committee sits six times a year and the Mayor encouraged members to attend as many meetings as possible.

Mr. Mackin informed the members that he was prepared to take all their completed nomination papers to the Monitoring Officer at the District Council offices by the 4<sup>th</sup> April deadline.

The Gala committee would still like further volunteers to assist with the gala both on the day and the run-up.

The Mayor requested members to give thought to possible agenda topics for the forthcoming Annual Town Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> April.

Nominations are also required for both a male and a female who have served the community unstintingly without financial reward and are deemed to be a worthy recipient of the OVPPF Cup.

The Mayor informed members that two representatives of the Highways Department of the County Council were due to attend a meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> April to offer answers to the members' concerns about the state of the highways and pavements but this has now been changed to 9<sup>th</sup> May.

**7. CORRESPONDENCE**

7.1 Mid Beds District Council Forward Plan 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2007.

7.2 Reported Crime Incidents–February 2007. Anti-social Behaviour Incidents Feb.2007

7.3 Notice of the Appeal Decision re APP/J0215/A/06/20298203 – Shefford Service Station. ( 06/00973/FULL).The appeal is allowed and planning permission granted subject to conditions set out below in the Formal Decision.

7.4 An invitation from the BRCC to attend the Marston Vale Community Rail Partnership Launch on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April from 11.30 to 2.30.

7.5 An invitation from the Bedfordshire Association of Town & Parish Councils to nominate a Councillor in the Mid Bedfordshire district who is willing to serve on the Mid Bedfordshire Standards committee.

7.6 Various publications : Beds-Spread, Countryside Voice-CPRE, Fieldwork-CPRE, Standards Board for England, Local Council Review, Horizon, Hurricane, Bedfordshire, Looking Good-CPA Rating, Adult Learning-Beds C C, Clerks & Councils Direct, Bedford Group of Drainage Boards-Internal Drainage Board Review 2006, Bedfordshire & Luton Combined Fire Authority Integrated Risk Management Plan 2007-8.

## **8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The following were adopted :

Planning and Environment of 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> March 2007.

Services and Maintenance of 14<sup>th</sup> March 2007.

Finance & Policy of 21<sup>st</sup> March 2007.

## **9. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT**

County Councillor Younger informed those present that Bedford Borough had put in a bid for unitary status as had the County Council but Mid Beds and South Beds District Councils had sent a Letter of Intent.

The current status of Community Liaison Forums will come to an end on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007 as they are deemed to have the end of their useful life.

The Children's Centre is making good progress and is moving ahead quite strongly.

Cllr. Younger highlighted the fact that one male member and one female member of the Samuel Whitbread College had been very successful in cross country and the rugby team has reached the finals which will be played at Twickenham.

There are moves to introduce a Credit Union in Bedfordshire and a consultation event will take place on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May at the District Council offices in Chicksands.

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In April the County Council's Highways Department will be inspecting the drainage gully's in Ampthill Road by means of CCTV cameras as it is felt that the maps

indicating drainage flow etc. may not always be reliable. Particular problems at J R Ford's garage have been noted on several occasions.

## **10. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT**

Cllr. Brown informed those present that Planning permission had been obtained at the Esso station on appeal.

An Environmental Manager is to study energy efficiency at the Chicksands office and then advise the District Council on how to improve its current standard and hence implement money saving measures.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> April will see the introduction of the food waste system in various parts of Mid Bedfordshire. Approximately 6,000 households will participate and it is anticipated that this will take the overall recycling material figure to almost 50%. The food waste collection will be carried out by a single vehicle and the pilot scheme will continue for one year.

## **11. ACCOUNTS**

The Accounts as listed in the Minute Book were approved for payment.

## **12. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

It was reported that the barrier at the entry to the car park is in need of repair.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

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